Pricing Supplement No. 12 dated November 3, 1998 (To Prospectus dated April 1, 1996 and Prospectus Supplement dated April 1, 1996)

Rule 424(b)(3) File No. 33-58887

Colgate-Palmolive Company

Medium-Term Notes - Fixed Rate

Series C

We are hereby offering to sell Notes having the terms specified below to you with the assistance of Salomon Smith Barney Inc., acting as agent, at a fixed initial public offering price of 99.957% of the Principal Amount.

Principal Amount: \$20,000,000 Interest Rate: 5.65% per annum Stated Maturity Date: December 1, 2011

Original Issue Date: November 6, 1998 Net Proceeds to Company: \$19,991,400 Agent's Discount or Commission: See "Supplemental Plan of Distribution" below.

Interest Payment Dates: Semi-Annually (See "Other Provisions - Interest" below).

Redemption	:
[

X 1 The Notes cannot be redeemed by the Company prior to the Stated Maturity Date.] The Notes may be redeemed by the Company prior to the Stated Maturity Date. Initial Redemption Date:

Initial Redemption Percentage: ____%

Annual Redemption Percentage Reduction: _____% until Redemption Percentage is 100% of the Principal amount.

Optional Repayment:

[X] The Notes cannot be repaid at the option of the holder thereof prior to the Stated Maturity Date.

The Notes can be repaid at the option of the holder [] thereof prior to the Stated Maturity Date at Optional Repayment Date(s):

Repayment Price: _____%

Currency:

Specified Currency: U.S. dollars

(If other than U.S. dollars, see attached.)

Minimum Denomination: \$__

(Applicable only if Specified Currency is other than U.S. dollars.)

Original Issue Discount: [Yes [X]]

Total amount of OID: Yield to Maturity: Initial Accrual Period:

[] Certificated Form: [X] Book-entry

[X] Other provisions:

Interest:

Interest on the Notes will accrue from November 6, 1998 and will be payable in U.S. dollars on the first day of June and December of each year, commencing June 1, 1999 up to and including the Stated Maturity Date (each, an "Interest Payment Date"). Interest will accrue from and including each Interest Payment Date (or from November 6, 1998, if no interest has been paid or duly provided for) to but excluding the next succeeding Interest Payment Date. In the event an Interest Payment Date falls on a day other than a Business Day, interest will be paid on the next succeeding Business Day and no interest on such payment shall accrue for the period from and after such Interest Payment Date to such next succeeding Business Day.

Use of Proceeds:

The net proceeds from the sale of the Notes will be used by the Company to retire commercial paper which was issued by the Company for general

corporate purposes and working capital. As of October 30, 1998, the Company's outstanding commercial paper had a weighted average interest rate of 5.2904% with maturities ranging from 3 to 89 days.

Supplemental Plan of Distribution:

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Salomon Smith Barney Inc., the agent, will receive no commission in respect of the sale of the Notes. An affiliate of Salomon Smith Barney Inc. may receive compensation in connection with a swap agreement entered into with the Company.